

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

| AREA | FORM NO. |
|------|----------|
| T | 561 |



wn Lexington

dress 389 Concord Avenue

storic Name Ebenezer Smith House

e: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

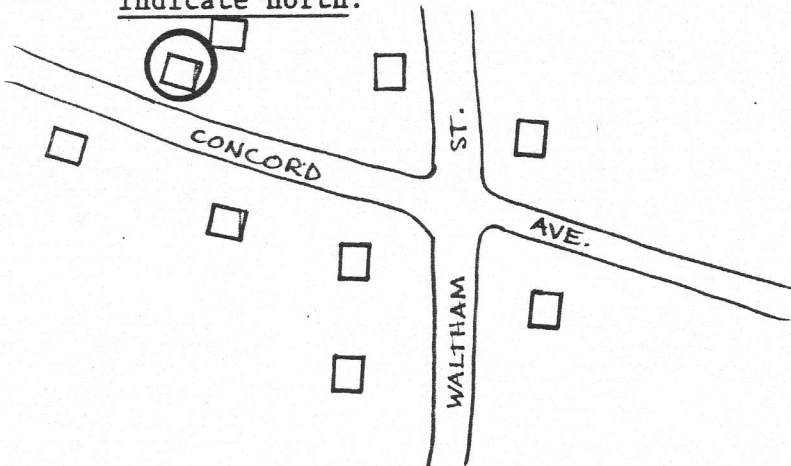
te c. 1815

Proceedings of the Lexington

Source Historical Society II(1900):107

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings small barn (garage) with

ell

Major alterations (with dates) two-

story flat-roof addition across entire

rear; porch at east rear

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 3.75 A.

Setting At edge of residential street

with continual traffic; abutting a

commercially-zoned intersection.

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date February, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

One of the surviving farmhouses built along the Cambridge-Concord Turnpike (see Concord Avenue area form), this house, five bays wide, two stories high, two bays deep, and with two rear chimneys -- has a typical Federal Vernacular profile. Other features are the first story windows which are slightly longer than those on the second and the pilasters on either side of the front door which, before the addition of the porch, very likely formed part of a simple Federal frontispiece. Like the Federal farmhouses at 353 Concord Avenue and

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

According to an antiquarian account, this house was built in 1815 for Ebenezer Smith. The house previously on the site burned on January 31, 1815, one of the coldest days in years, and because Smith did not have it insured, the neighbors chipped in to help him build a new one (Smith 1891:107). The 1830 map shows a house on this site, then the corner of Concord Avenue and Waltham Street. (The stone wall that bordered the old Waltham Street can still be seen to the east of the driveway of this house.)

Ebenezer Smith belonged to a family that had first moved to Lexington from Watertown in the late seventeenth century and by the beginning of the nineteenth century had so many members who lived in the south part of town that it was known as "Smith's End." Ebenezer himself was a shoemaker; most of his customers apparently lived in Boston though his workshop was at his house in Lexington. (None of the present outbuildings appear to be a shoemaker's shop, however.) He reportedly retired in 1848 at the age of 68; the 1852 map indicates that he still owned the house on this site (no longer the corner of Waltham Street, which had been moved to its present location), but the 1853 map indicates that it was owned by Elbridge Farmer, Ebenezer Smith's son-in-law (Hudson 1913, II:643). Smith died in 1860 and by 1876 the house was owned by George O. Wellington, a farmer who had moved to Lexington from Waltham in 1859 and was a grandnephew of David Wellington on Pleasant St. (see 130 Pleasant St. form).

George Wellington still owned the property in 1906;

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, Volume II. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913.

Kelley, Beverly Allison. Lexington: A Century of Photographs. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Historical Society, 1980.

Lexington Historical Society, Burr Church Collection.

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End"(1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II (1900):99-122.

1830 map

1852 map

1853 map

1876 map

1906 map

1906 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

561

Property Name: 389 Concord Avenue

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

945 Waltham Street (see forms for these buildings), this house has two windows on each story on one side (in this case the east) and one window per story on the other side. The mortared fieldstone is evidently an anomaly rather than an indication the house was moved to this site.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

at that time it apparently had a barn as well as a house, but a shed attached to the barn and shown in photographs taken in 1921 (Kelley 1980:10) and in 1923 is no longer standing.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom